

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring a field device connected via a data bus with a control unit, comprising the steps of:

using the control unit to request at intervals in time, an individual identifier of the field device;

comparing the requested individual identifier of the field device with an identifier stored in the control unit, for ~~preventing~~ indicating an unauthorized tampering with the field device based on the unauthorized replacement or change of hardware has occurred, or software, or even just parts thereof in the field device; and

producing an alarm or a warning, in the case of a change in the requested individual identifier.

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the individual identifier is the serial number of the field device.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the individual identifier is a key in the device firmware of the field device.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein:
the individual identifier is a test sum of a memory unit in the field device.

18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the step of:

storing the requested individual identifier in a database, along with a time stamp.

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein:
a storing in the database only occurs, when a change is detected in the requested individual identifier.

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarm or warning is only produced, when the change occurs outside of a specified
time period for maintenance.

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarm or warning is presented at the control unit.

23. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarm or warning is sent in electronic form.

24. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarms or warnings are retrievable at the control unit.

25. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the alarms or warnings can be retrieved via a client.

Claim 26 (Cancelled).

27. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein:
the electronic form is one of: email; SMS; and fax.

28. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein:
the alarms or warnings can be retrieved via Internet Explorer.